

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application contains claims 1-13, 18 and 19. Claims 3, 9 and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 14-17 have been canceled without prejudice to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Making reference to the Office Action Summary it is noted that the present action is responsive to a communication filed August 31, 2006 and it is a non-final action. It is submitted that the present response has been timely filed.

Rejection of claims 1-19 are dealt with below in detail.

The acceptance of the drawings filed June 24, 2004 is noted.

The acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and receipt of all of the certified copies are duly noted. It is further noted that the Examiner has considered the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed December 1, 2003.

Making reference to the Detailed Action, it is noted that claim 3 has been objected to. It is submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn in view of the fact that applicant has amended claim 3 in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

The rejection of claims 14-17 under U.S.C. §101 is submitted to be moot in view of the fact that these claims have been canceled.

Claims 1-13, 15 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Hatanaka (Pat '636). Claims 15 and 17 having been canceled, this rejection is respectfully traversed as regards claims 1-13, 18 and 19.

Regarding claim 1, making reference to the Official Action it is noted that the Examiner has stated that "...a first photographing mode in which the camera serves as a master to photograph (activating shutter button on an electronic camera switches control to the camera as disclosed in Col. 7, Lines 16-18 and Col. 3, Lines 25-30)...".

The Examiner further admits that Hatanaka switches control to the camera when the shutter button on the electronic camera is activated.

This is clearly different from the operation of the present invention in which the external apparatus sets the first photographing mode, which is clearly different from Hatanaka. Note that claim 1 recites "a selector configure to select between a first photographing mode in which the camera serves as a master to photograph and a second photographing mode in which the external apparatus serves as master and controls the camera to photograph. The activation of the shutter button on the electronic camera of Hatanaka automatically switches controls to the camera whereas in the present invention, the external apparatus controls the operation of the camera when in the second photographing mode wherein the external apparatus serves as the master and controls the camera to photograph. In the

present invention, operation of the camera shutter button **cannot** change the mode of operation. For these reasons, it is submitted that claim 1 clearly patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and carry all of its limitations and hence are deemed to patentably distinguish over Hatanaka for the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 1.

Regarding claim 3, although the Examiner, at page 6, lines 1-9 of the Official Action states that the limitations of claim 3 are described in Hatanaka it should nevertheless be noted that, according to column 5, lines 46-52, Hatanaka is limited to teaching that "the computer 10 provides a photography command..., Upon receiving the photography command, the electronic camera 20 normally performs a series of preparatory operations such as adjustments of focus and exposure, and then performs photographing."

It is clear from Figure 12 of Hatanaka that the only control exerted by the computer is to command the camera to **initiate** photographing. To the contrary, the photographing condition in the present invention means the photographing mode such as shutter priority photographing, iris diaphragm priority photographing, etc. or the conditions such as shutter speed, iris diaphragm value, (ISO sensitivity) etc. which is clearly different from and patentable over merely issuing a command to the camera to begin photographing, which constitutes a

limited teaching of Hatanaka. It is thus submitted that claim 3 patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka for these added reasons.

Regarding claim 4, the Examiner states, at page 7, lines 1-5 of the Official Action "in photographing based on the photographing conditions set through the external apparatus operator, each time one photographing condition is set by the external apparatus operator, a picture is taken by the camera based on the photographing conditions including the set photographing conditions including the set photographing condition, image data obtained is transmitted from the camera to the external apparatus (Col. 4, Lines 22-27)..."

Nevertheless, it should be noted that Hatanaka, at column 4, lines 22-27 is limited to teaching an operator inputting "a desired number of seconds into the timer-setting inputting field... wherein the "computer 10 issues a photography command to the electronic camera 20 after the number of seconds inputted into the timer setting input field by the operator, and the "electronic camera 20 performs photography upon receiving the photography command...", which is clearly different from that of the present invention in which a picture is taken after one photographing condition is set by the **external apparatus operator**. It is important to note that the time delay setting is **not** transferred from the computer to the camera in Hatanaka.

Hatanaka is limited to teaching that, when the electronic camera 20 is controlled by the computer for performing photography, every photographing condition is set at the side of the camera 20. There is no teaching or even remote description wherein the computer 10 inputs the photographing conditions into the electronic camera to perform photography. For these reasons it is submitted that claim 4 patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka.

Regarding claim 5, the Examiner, at page 8, lines 3-9 of the Office Action states "... a picture is taken in one of the first photographing mode and the second photographing mode under control of the external apparatus (the first photographing mode is selected by activating the shutter button as described in column 7, lines 16-18, the first photographing mode is described in Column 3, Lines 25-30, and the second photographing mode is described in Column 3, lines 7-12 and is selected by activating the software that controls the external apparatus)."

As set forth above, in the arguments regarding claim 1, the setting of the first photographing mode is controlled by the external apparatus in the present invention. In the event that the Hatanaka system is in the photographing mode where the computer controls photographing, the mode is automatically changed in Hatanaka to the camera controlling the operating mode by activating the shutter button, which is clearly different from the present invention wherein, when the external apparatus selects the photographing mode, the camera shutter button is

not capable of converting the camera/computer combination to a different photographing mode and for these reasons it is submitted that claim 5 patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 5 and are deemed to patentably distinguish over Hatanaka for the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 5.

Regarding claim 7, as was set forth above regarding claim 4, Hatanaka is limited to the computer 10 providing timer photography control. The number of delay desired selected by the user is inputted into the computer and is displayed in the computer display. There is **no** transfer of the timer photography setting to the camera in Hatanaka. When the timer times out at step S3 in Figure 8, the photography command is issued, at step S4. All of the photographing conditions (i.e., focus, shutter speed, diaphragm, etc) are set by the camera 20 in Hatanaka. For these reasons it is submitted that claim 7 patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka.

Regarding claim 8, it is noted that the Examiner, at page 9, lines 12-16 of the Official Action states "...in photographing based on the photographing condition received from the external apparatus, each time one photographing condition is received from the external apparatus, a picture is taken based on received photographing conditions, an image data obtained by the photographing is transmitted to the external apparatus (Col. 4, Lines 22-27)."

Nevertheless, as was described above regarding claim 4, the text at column 4, lines 22-27 of Hatanaka is limited to teaching that desired number of seconds can be placed into the timer setting during timer photography whereupon a photography command is given (when the timer times out). There is no teaching in Hatanaka of transferring or setting photographing conditions into the camera by computer 10 and for these reasons it is submitted that claim 8 patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka.

Regarding claim 9, it should be noted that claim 9 has been amended to clearly state that the selector of the external apparatus determines the selection of the camera serving as a master in the first photographing mode and the external apparatus serving as the master in the second photographing mode. To the contrary, Hatanaka switches to the mode in which the camera serves as the master for photographing based on activation of the shutter button on the electronic camera, which is not possible and is prevented in the present invention when the external apparatus selector selects the second photographing mode in which the external apparatus serves as the master and controls the camera to photograph. For these reasons it is submitted that claim 9 patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka.

Claims 10-12 all depend from claim 9 and carry all of its limitations and hence are deemed to patentably distinguish over Hatanaka for the same reasons set

forth above regarding claim 9. In addition, claim 11 recites substantially the same limitations as those recited in claim 3 and further patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka for these added reasons.

Regarding claim 13, although the Examiner, at page 12, lines 7-11 of Official Action states "when a picture is taken through the camera based the photographing condition set through the external apparatus operator, each time one photographing condition is set by the external apparatus operator, picture is taken by the camera.. (Column 4, lines 22-27),..." as was pointed out above, the photographing conditions set by the external apparatus are not conveyed to the camera. The text at Lines 22-27, of Column 4 of Hatanaka is limited to a user setting a desired number of seconds in the timer. This is not a "photographing condition" which is not conveyed to the camera as was described above and it is submitted that claim 13 patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka for this added reasons.

Regarding claim 18, it should be noted that claim 18 has been amended in the manner similar to claim 9 in reciting that the external apparatus is provided with a selector for respectively selecting a mode in which the camera serves as a master, or the external apparatus severs as the master wherein, when the external apparatus is the master photographing conditions are set through the external apparatus operator when the external apparatus is the master. For these reasons, it is submitted that claim 18 patentably distinguishes over Hatanaka. Claim 19

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depends from 18 and carries all of its limitations and hence is deemed to patentably distinguish over Hatanaka for the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 18.

It is submitted that the rejection of claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hatanaka is now moot in view of the fact that claims 14 and 16 have been canceled.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-13, 18 and 19 patentably distinguish over the art of record and reconsideration and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

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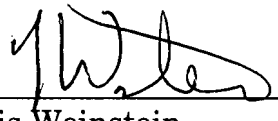
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-13, 18 and 19, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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